

NEWS RELEASE

**INDIANA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**



EMBARGOED UNTIL: Monday March 8, 2004

Media Contact: Jeff Harris, 317/ 232-3396
Marcia Gray, 317/ 232-3287

Joseph E. Kernan, Governor
Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

Indiana's Unemployment Insurance Claims ***Week Ending February 28, 2004***

Indianapolis, Ind. – Today the Indiana Department of Workforce Development released the following information on the state's unemployment insurance claims for the week ending February 28, 2004:

- *Total Unemployment Insurance Claims:* 81,914 total claims were filed throughout the week. This marks a decrease of 322 claims (-0.39%) from the previous week and a decrease of 7,473 claims (-8.36%) compared to the same week last year.
- *New Unemployment Insurance Claims:* 6,380 new claims were filed during the week. This was 105 (1.67%) more claims than the previous week and 1,146 (-15.23%) fewer than the same week last year.
- *Continuing Unemployment Insurance Claims:* 74,450 continued claims were filed. This is a decrease from the previous week, with 487 (-0.65%) fewer claims being filed. During the same week last year, 81,223 claims were continued.
- Federal civilian employees and ex-military personnel made up the remainder of total unemployment claims filed.
- *Regular State and Federal Benefits:* \$18,361,225.12 in benefits were awarded for the week, down from \$18,731,288.05 in benefits which were awarded last week.
- *Extended Unemployment Compensation Benefits Paid:* \$829,886.77
- *Regular Benefits Paid Year-to-Date:* \$166,217,915.82
- *Trust Fund Balance:* \$632,637,184.38
- *Layoffs and Closures:* Temporary layoff were reported in a transportation equipment manufacturer in Hammond, a mobile home manufacturer in South Bend and a wood office furniture manufacturer in Evansville.

Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, works with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.

For more information on this or other Department of Workforce Programs, contact Jeff Harris at 317/ 232-3396 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

###